Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, to resolve all issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral discussions. Jammu and Kashmir is one of the issues being discussed with Pakistan within the framework of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue. Two rounds of dialogue have been successfully concluded and the third round is scheduled to begin in January 2006. In the course of these dicussions and at various high level meetings, both sides have agreed to pursue measures to enhance interaction and cooperation across the LoC, including agreed meeting points for divided families, trade, pilgrimages and cultural interaction. The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service has been operationalised though it is temporarily suspended due to the earthquake. Both countries have now agreed to let trucks use this route to promote trade. Agreement has also been reached to start additional routes, including the Poonch-Rawalakot bus service and to finalize modalities for meeting points for divided families across LoC. These issues will be taken up again once the infrastructure damaged by the earthquake is restored. Following the earthquake, both sides agreed to open five crossing points across LoC to facilitate the movement of people and relief material from either side.

(b The Government has stated that there is no question of India accepting any change in the status of Jammu and Kashmir, which is and which will remain an integral part of India. There have been no discussions with Pakistan on changing, in any form whatsoever, the status of Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Discussion with Bangladesh

2466. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the issue that came in the lime-light during recent discussion between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh;

(b) the issues of convergence and divergence thereof, and

(c) the status of significant development during discussion on terrorism including North-East, barbed wire fencing transit communication, border crimes, trade and commerce etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Prime Minister met the

Bangladesh Prime Minister on November 12, 2005 on-the sidelines of the SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. SAARC related issue and bilateral issues relating to Indian Insurgent Group, transit, energy and water resources were discussed. Both sides reiterated the importance they attach to maintaining friendly and good neighbourly relations and reaffirmed their desire to continue discussions with a view to resolving outstanding issues.

Chinese arm supply to Nepal

2467. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is supplying large scale of arms to Nepal, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what would be the impact of such arm supplies by China to Nepal on Indo-Nepal relations; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to counter Chinese influence in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government of India is aware of reports suggesting that Nepal has received arm supplies from China. The Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) spokesperson on November 25, 2005 said that RNA had recently received "non lethal" military assistance from China.

It has all along been the position taken by the Government of India that there is no purely military solution to the challenges facing Nepal, including the Maoist insurgency. The Government is constantly monitoring the situation and appropriate measures are being taken to safeguard India's national interests.

Portraying Kashmir as a country

2468. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Voice of America's most trusted broadcasting corporation — portrays Kashmir as a country in its website;

(b) if so, whether any Indian monitoring agency has raised its objection; and